What is Claimed is:

1. A method for the qualitative and/or quantitative detection of a ribosome inactivating protein, comprising:

contacting a sample suspected of containing a ribosome inactivating protein with an oligonucleotide substrate having a GA_xGA tetraloop wherein "A_x" is a nucleoside comprising an adenine base, derivative or analog thereof; and

detecting the presence of the adenine base, derivative or analog thereof released from "A_x" of said tetraloop as an indication of the presence of the ribosome inactivating protein in the sample.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising treating the adenine base, derivative or analog thereof released from said tetraloop with a fluorescent reagent compound for forming a fluorescent adenine derivative or analog base capable of emitting fluorescence.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the fluorescent reagent compound is an acetaldehyde.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the acetaldehyde is a haloacetaldehyde.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the haloacetaldehyde is selected from the group consisting of bromoacetaldehyde and chloroacetaldehyde.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the adenine base, derivative or analog thereof is capable of emitting fluorescence when released from said tetraloop.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the fluorescent adenine base, derivative or analog base of "A_x" is 2-aminopurine.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the oligonucleotide substrate comprises 2'-O-methylated nucleosides.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the 2'-O-methylated oligonucleotide substrate is attached to a solid support.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the GA_xGA tetraloop comprises deoxyribonucleosides.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the "A_x" of the GA_xGA tetraloop comprises a deoxyribonucleoside.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the solid support is Sepharose.

13. The method of claim 2 further comprising detecting the presence of the fluorescent adenine derivative or analog base of "A_x" using fluorescence spectrometry.

14. The method of claim 2 further comprising detecting the presence of the fluorescent adenine derivative or analog base of "A_x" using high pressure liquid chromatography.

15. The method of claim 6 further comprising detecting the presence of the fluorescent adenine derivative or analog base of "A_x" using fluorescence spectrometry.

16. A reagent for detecting the presence of ribosome inhibiting proteins, said reagent comprising an oligonucleotide substrate including a GA_xGA tetraloop wherein "A_x" is a nucleoside comprising a fluorescent adenine derivative or analog base capable of emitting a fluorescence when released from said tetraloop.

17. The reagent of claim 16 wherein the nucleoside, "A_x", comprises a 2'-deoxyribose sugar.

18. The reagent of claim 16 wherein the nucleoside, "A_x", comprises a D-ribose sugar.

19. The reagent of claim 16 wherein the fluorescent adenine derivative or analog base of the nucleoside "A_x" is 2-aminopurine.

20. The reagent of claim 16 wherein the oligonucleotide substrate comprises 2'-O-methylated nucleosides.

21. The reagent of claim 20 wherein the oligonucleotide substrate is a dAU6 20mer attached to a solid support.

22. The reagent of claim 20 wherein the oligonucleotide substrate is a dA 14mer.

23. The reagent of claim 20 wherein the GA_xGA tetraloop comprises deoxyribonucleosides.

24. The reagent of claim 20 wherein the "A_x" comprises a deoxyribonucleotide.

25. An assay kit for the qualitative and/or quantitative detection of a ribosome inactivating protein, said assay kit comprising:

an effective amount of an oligonucleotide substrate having a GA_xGA tetraloop wherein "A_x" is a nucleoside comprising an adenine base, derivative or analog thereof; and

a vessel for retaining a sample suspected of containing a ribosome inactivating protein in contact with the substrate.

26. The assay kit of claim 25 further comprising an effective amount of a fluorescent reagent compound capable of reacting with the adenine base, derivative or analog thereof released from "A_x" to form a fluorescent adenine derivative or analog base.

27. The assay kit of claim 25 wherein the adenine base, derivative or analog thereof is capable of emitting fluorescence when released from the nucleoside, "A_x".

28. The assay kit of claim 27 wherein the fluorescent adenine base, derivative or analog thereof is 2-aminopurine.

29. The assay kit of claim 26 further comprising a fluorescence measuring apparatus.

30. The assay kit of claim 27 further comprising a fluorescence measuring apparatus.